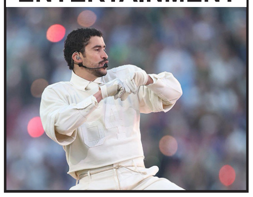
ENTERTAINMENT



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EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
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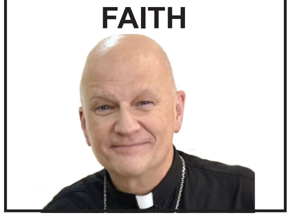
FAITH



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Archbishop Weisenburger Opinion: ICE violence puts America's soul in crisis

Altares iluminan el duelo invisible de la deportación

Por Luciana Vega | Fotos por Luciana Vega, Theresa Beckley-Amaya y Julianna Sanroman Rojas

El domingo 1 de febrero, aproximadamente 30 miembros de la comunidad local, amigos y desconocidos, se reunieron para dar vida a Altars for Collective Grief (Altares para el Duelo Colectivo), una serie de instalaciones artísticas inspiradas en la idea de crear un espacio comunal para honrar el duelo vivido por la comunidad latina debido al impacto de las deportaciones y los continuos problemas de inmigración.

El proyecto fue iniciado en diciembre de 2025 por la trabajadora social de cuidados paliativos Theresa Beckley-Amaya junto con la cofundadora y artista Julianna Sanroman Rojas. Con el apoyo de pequeñas empresas y organizaciones locales, los voluntarios pudieron recolectar suministros e instalar 24 altares en parques, restaurantes y otros negocios locales por todo Southwest Detroit.

Se habla del duelo a menudo en los términos generales de la muerte, pero ahí no es donde termina la conversación. El duelo desautorizado (o no reconocido), como el asociado con la deportación, rara vez se menciona ni recibe el mismo cuidado que el duelo asociado con la muerte. Como resultado, a menudo deja a

Continúa en la página 7

MOVEMENT IS OLDER THAN BORDERS.
WE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN MOVING
BEFORE BORDERS, THERE WAS BREATH
MIGRAR ES UN DERECHO DE NACIMIENTO
MOVEMENT

Volunteers setting up an altar outside El Rancho Mexican Restaurant.

Altars Shine Light on Invisible Grief of Deportation

By Luciana Vega | Photo credits to Luciana Vega, Theresa Beckley-Amaya and Julianna Sanroman Rojas

On Sunday, February 1st, approximately 30 local community members, friends and strangers, came together to bring Altars for Collective Grief to life, a series of art installations inspired by the idea of creating a communal space to honor the grief experienced by the Latino community due to the impact of deportations and ongoing immigration issues.

The project was started in December 2025 by hospice social worker Theresa Beckley-Amaya along with co-founder and artist Julianna Sanroman Rojas. With support from small businesses and local organizations, volunteers were able to collect supplies and install 24 altars throughout parks, restaurants, and other local businesses across Southwest Detroit.

Grief is most often talked about in the general terms of death, but that isn't where the conversation ends. Disenfranchised grief, like that associated with deportation, is rarely spoken about or given the same care as grief associated with death. As a result, it often leaves people feeling ashamed, isolated, and confused on how to deal with it. "You are used to having a family member

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Two Venezuelan Asylum Seekers Arrested by ICE Again; Detroit Democratic Leaders Urge Their Release

By Erick Diaz Veliz

"We are urging U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to release Edwin Vladimir Romero Gutierrez and Angel Junior Rincon-Perez, two men who have work authorization and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) status and are seeking legal asylum in the United States," begins the letter sent on February 6 by Senators Stephanie Chang and Mary Cavanagh, Representative Verónica Paiz, and Detroit Councilwoman Gabriela Santiago-Romero to Kevin Raycraft, ICE Detroit Field Director.

Days earlier, on February 2, Romero-Gutiérrez and Rincón-Pérez, both Amazon Flex drivers, were arrested by ICE agents in Hazel Park. Romero-Gutiérrez was arrested inside the Amazon's facility after a car chase on his way to his second shift, during which, according to an ICE spokesperson, Romero-Gutiérrez endangered others by first fleeing in a vehicle and then on foot. Richard Rocha, a company spokesperson, told Axios that agents were able to enter the premises after telling security that "an individual had fled from them and passed through the turnstiles."

ICE also told various media outlets that Romero-Gutiérrez had been previously arrested in 2023 for illegally crossing the U.S.-Mexico border in the Rio Grande Valley. The border arrest is not a criminal offense but an immigration administrative violation handled in immigration courts.

Meanwhile, Rincón-Pérez, a father of three, was arrested while trying to complete a delivery he had been unable to make the previous day. Although ICE didn't present any court warrant, according to their statements, the arrests were part of a "targeted enforcement operation".

Senator Chang's office stated in a press release that both men, legal asylum seekers, have work authorization and Michigan driver's licenses and are scheduled for upcoming asylum court hearings. They are currently being held at the controversial North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin, Michigan.

"Edwin and Ángel are following the legal asylum process and were doing everything they could to support their families and work as Amazon Flex drivers in our community when federal agents detained them," Senator Stephanie Chang said in the statement. The Democratic senator once again condemned ICE's actions, which continue to affect families in the community both emotionally and economically.

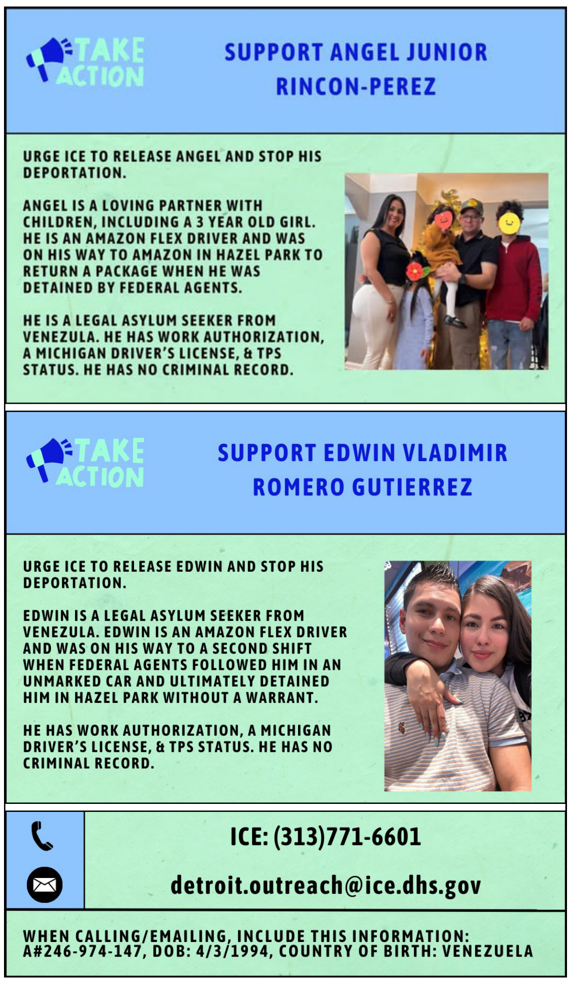
The Temporary Protected Status that allowed both men to remain in the U.S. was suspended for Venezuelan, Haitian, and other beneficiaries at the start of President Trump's second term, with the administration arguing that living conditions in those countries had improved. The legality of that decision is still being challenged in court—a legal limbo affecting nearly 600,000 Venezuelans. On December 10, 2025, U.S. District Judge Edward W. Chen of Northern California issued a temporary order validating TPS and allowing beneficiaries to be released on appeal in federal court if detained by immigration agents.

For Santiago-Romero, these detentions and separations caused by the "inhumane immigration policy of the Trump administration" are senseless, and both men should be released as quickly as possible. "Both are legally in the country, have TPS, are seeking asylum (a process established under both U.S. and international law), and have work authorization from our own government. They are neither criminals nor violent," she added in the statement.

The partners of both men also shared emotional messages in Chang's statement about the impact of the arrests on their families and urged their release.

"Ángel, your children and I are waiting for you at home," said Franyl Huerta, Rincón-Pérez's partner. "I sincerely beg you to give Ángel the chance to see his family again. He is a good father, a good son, and a good brother. He is only seeking a better future for our family, as he is the foundation of our home."

"Edwin is a hardworking and calm man. He has always been responsible and very dedicated to his family," said María Zambrano, Romero-Gutiérrez's partner. "He is the primary support of our household and also financially helps his mother, who depends on him. Since his detention, our family has been going through a very difficult time, both emotionally and financially. My husband is not a criminal. He is a family man who came to this country seeking safety and an opportunity to work and support his family honestly."



TAKE ACTION

SUPPORT ANGEL JUNIOR RINCON-PEREZ

URGE ICE TO RELEASE ANGEL AND STOP HIS DEPORTATION.

ANGEL IS A LOVING PARTNER WITH CHILDREN, INCLUDING A 3 YEAR OLD GIRL. HE IS AN AMAZON FLEX DRIVER AND WAS ON HIS WAY TO AMAZON IN HAZEL PARK TO RETURN A PACKAGE WHEN HE WAS DETAINED BY FEDERAL AGENTS.

HE IS A LEGAL ASYLUM SEEKER FROM VENEZULA. HE HAS WORK AUTHORIZATION, A MICHIGAN DRIVER'S LICENSE, & TPS STATUS. HE HAS NO CRIMINAL RECORD.

TAKE ACTION

SUPPORT EDWIN VLADIMIR ROMERO GUTIERREZ

URGE ICE TO RELEASE EDWIN AND STOP HIS DEPORTATION.

EDWIN IS A LEGAL ASYLUM SEEKER FROM VENEZULA. EDWIN IS AN AMAZON FLEX DRIVER AND WAS ON HIS WAY TO A SECOND SHIFT WHEN FEDERAL AGENTS FOLLOWED HIM IN AN UNMARKED CAR AND ULTIMATELY DETAINED HIM IN HAZEL PARK WITHOUT A WARRANT.

HE HAS WORK AUTHORIZATION, A MICHIGAN DRIVER'S LICENSE, & TPS STATUS. HE HAS NO CRIMINAL RECORD.

☎ ICE: (313)771-6601
✉ detroit.outreach@ice.dhs.gov

WHEN CALLING/EMAILING, INCLUDE THIS INFORMATION:
A#246-974-147, DOB: 4/3/1994, COUNTRY OF BIRTH: VENEZUELA

Erick Diaz Veliz is a Peruvian reporter based in Lansing, Michigan. He has documents and reports on cultural, social, and political issues in Peru and Michigan as a freelancer. Erick was born in Lima, Peru, and has been living in Lansing since 2018.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

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Pensamientos y Recuerdos

Ish My Friend–I Miss You

By Ozzie Rivera

It is not often that one comes across someone like Ismael Ahmed, a cultural and community warrior supreme. January 31st he departed us. Forgive me but I can't believe Ish is gone! He is still with us! Following my Caribbean spiritual ways I have been moved to close my eyes and can see his face so clearly. I can imagine having a conversation with him right there and then. He had that distinctive smile and way about him that puts you at ease so quickly. Though he is not with us physically he is with us spiritually and culturally!

Ismael Ahmed (1947-2026)

Ismael Ahmed & Ozzie Rivera at Concert of Colors

Much has been written about him in the short time since his passing. His achievements and long-lasting impact cannot be understated. So, the purpose of this article is to reflect on how he influenced me and of his love for our Southwest Detroit community.

My friendship with him goes back decades to the early 70's when we first crossed paths at a number of civil rights and anti-war events. We first met when we were in our 20's. A few years older than me he already was a veteran of the civil rights and workers movement.

That friendship grew and became stronger with each encounter and activity. By the early 80's we started working on activities jointly backed by our respective organizations. He with what would become the powerhouse organization ACCESS and I through my affiliation with the groundbreaking Latino arts organization Casa de Unidad in Southwest Detroit.

ACCESS was often represented by a number of performing arts troupes during the early 80's, Casa de Unidad's formative years, at that organizations' Unity in the Community festivals which were held annually in Clark Park. These were among the first major signs of fraternal cultural solidarity between our communities.

The relationship was only strengthened when Ismael's grandmother, the great Aliya Hassan, one of ACCESS' founders and a well-known activist in her own right, would serve on Casa de Unidad's board during Casa's early years.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without sharing a bit about Allya Hassan. A close confidant of Malcolm X, she helped him enter the world of orthodox Muslim religious practice after his departure from the Nation of Islam. A very humble woman I remember Ish sharing stories about how she helped Malcolm X plan for his trip to Mecca, the Moslem holy rite of passage, and when Malcolm X was assassinated she helped plan his funeral. I recollect seeing a copy of Malcolm's funeral program exhibited in an artifact display in the ACCESS offices. This was during the period when I briefly worked there as the Mental Health Director during the mid-90's. I found great spiritual and practical support for my administrative work from Ish and assistant director Hassan Jaber as I went about doing my job.

In fact, Ish served as my direct boss for a total of five years. First for two years at ACCESS and later for three years when I worked at the State of Michigan's Department of Human Services in the central administration. On both occasions his supervisory hand was clear and supportive. At no time did I feel our friendship was ever at stake, even when there were difficult times.

This joint work led us to believe we needed to more consciously strengthen relations between the Arab American and Latino communities. That got an early start in the middle 80's when Casa de Unidad and ACCESS co-sponsored at least two joint dinner/"confabs" on building bridges between our respective communities in an effort to build a multicultural coalition. A few decades later, that was revisited during the 2010's when ACCESS along with a coalition of Latino activists sponsored at least two Arab and Latino forums/cultural celebrations at the National Arab American Museum in Dearborn.

Ish was always clear that cultural work and music could bring our communities together so he jumped at the opportunity to become a member of the community planning committee Casa de Unidad and Palante Productions set up for the 1988 1st National Machito Memorial Concert which was held at the Paradise Theatre, now home to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. The importance of the event? Machito and his brother Mario Bauza, through their group Machito y Sus Afro Cubanos, are credited for having laid the foundation for Latin Jazz and what we now call Salsa back in the 40's and 50's. Their work set the conditions for many like Tito Puente, Dizzy Gillespie with his CuBop movement among so many others to expand our musical heritage. Yes, Detroit, not known for being a Latin music hotspot, played a major role in recognizing this historic juncture in Latin music history.

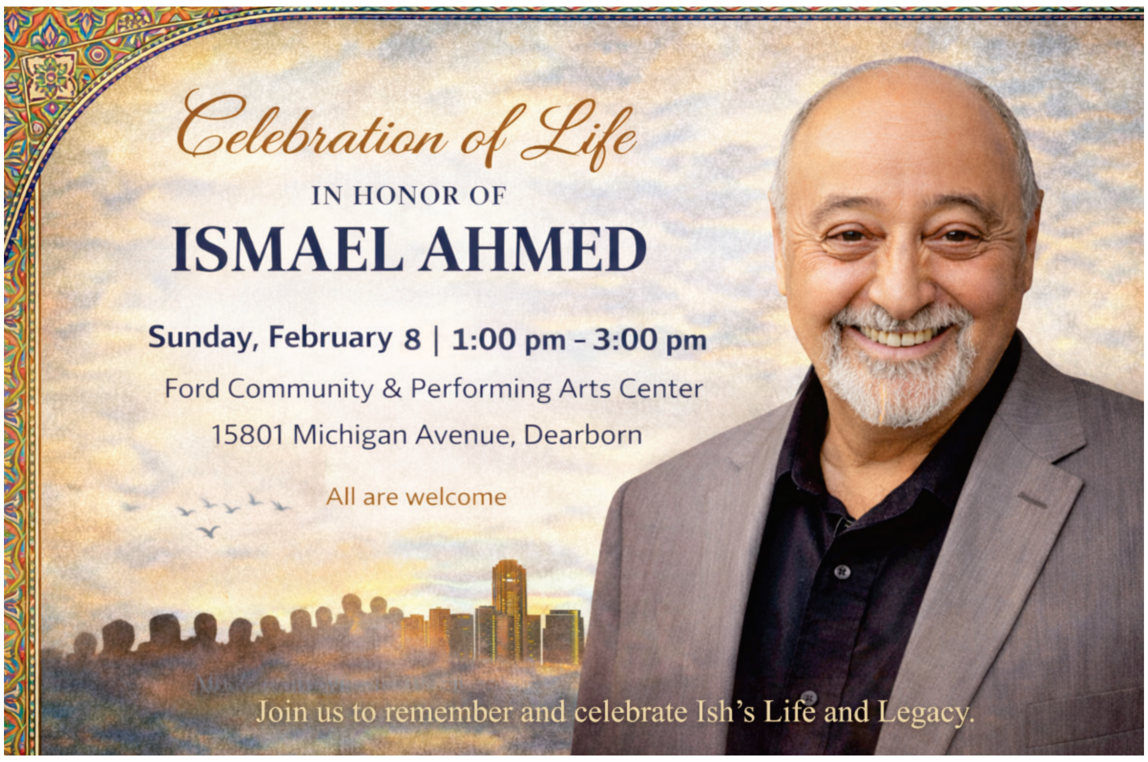
Ish would continue this focus on celebrating the giants of Latin music for decades when he invited the Machito band twice, the Big 3 Palladium twice, Eddie Palmieri twice and other similar bands to play at the Concert of Colors.

Yes, the iconic Concert of Colors. I was lucky enough to be invited by Ish to join the Concert of Colors committee when it first started in the early-90's. I continued supporting these efforts in one way another over the years, whether planning community workshops, promotions or on a number of occasions as a performer. For many you are all too aware of the power of being involved in such a powerful and liberating act of expression and multicultural unity. WOW is the only way to explain it.

So, in ending, how can I sum up sharing my life with the great Ish? I am sure many of you who knew him can relate. He elevated brotherly love bred in struggle and in loving our communities and their cultures. He is with the ancestors and following Caribbean spiritual beliefs, that means he still walks amongst us and continues to guide us.

Ish, follow the rhythm of the drums, dance your heart away with the Orishas up in the heavens. Dance one more rumba for us!!!

ACHE!!!



Celebration of Life

IN HONOR OF

ISMAEL AHMED

Sunday, February 8 | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

15801 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn

All are welcome

Join us to remember and celebrate Ish's Life and Legacy.

The memorial celebrating the life of Ismael Ahmed was attended by hundreds of Ish's family, colleagues and admirers. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages donations to the Concert of Colors to be held in Detroit July 15-19, 2026. https://givebutter.com/concertofcolors

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Osvaldo "Ozzie" Rivera was born in Puerto Rico and has lived in Southwest Detroit most of his life. He has been active in community advocacy and human services. He served as mental health director for ACCESS (Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services), as the executive director of Latino Family Services and as Dean of Students at Wayne County Community College. He served for 10 years as the Director of Multicultural Affairs and Assistant Professor (Social Work/Sociology) at Madonna University. For four years, he led community engagement efforts for Southwest Solutions. Recently retired, he consults for a number of social service and arts organizations. Ozzie has written more than 30 columns titled Pensamientos y Recuerdos covering oral history topics and current affairs for EL CENTRAL.

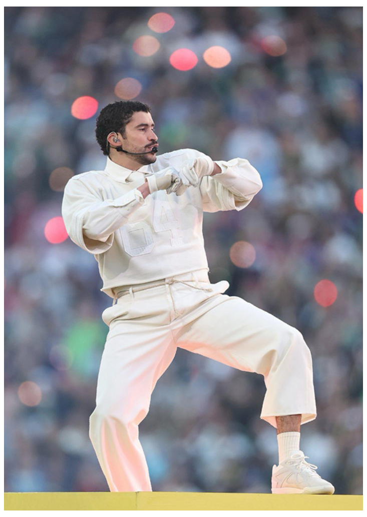
Bad Bunny Makes History at Super Bowl LX: Cultural Pride, Love, and Resistance

By Juanita Zuniga

Bad Bunny has done it again--this time on the world's biggest stages.

Just this past week he made history at the GRAMMYS and now he has set it ablaze all-over again as the first solo Latin male artist to headline the Super Bowl with a performance that was as political and cultural as it was musical.

It goes without saying, Latino representation at the Super Bowl has been limited. In 1992, Gloria Estefan was the first Latin artist to perform at the Super Bowl halftime show with Miami Sound Machine and again in 1999 as a solo artist. Since then many others have graced the many different stages including Latinos like Christina Aguilera, Shakira, Enrique Iglesias, JLO, and JBalvin,. But, until now, a Latin artist has never stood alone as the headliner.



This year's Super Bowl LX took place in Santa Clara, California but Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio, AKA Bad Bunny, took us on a historical, cultural, and prideful journey to Puerto Rico.

The 13-minute theatrical performance unfolded as a journey through the sugar cane fields, referencing Puerto Rico's colonial past.

Bad Bunny emerged from the replicated fields at Levi Stadium singing Titi Me Pregunto which commenced an exploration of reggaeton. Five back-to-back songs of pure hard core perreo anthems of his own while simultaneously paying homage to the greatest reggaeton hits of this millennium by the pioneers: Daddy Yankee, Don Omar, and Tego Calderon - all of which stood as a clear acknowledgement of those who had paved the way for him.

Throughout the performance Bad Bunny switched gears and only offered a piece of his Trap Bad Bunny persona with his song Monaco and importantly pausing to address the crowd directly.

"Good Afternoon, California," he said. "My name is Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio and if I'm here at the Super Bowl LX, it's because I never stopped believing in myself. You should never stop believing in yourself. It's worth more than you think, believe me."

The halftime show wasn't just another career win for Bad Bunny against his biggest critics but rather a major milestone for Latin America and the diaspora. He purposefully chose to put front and center Spanish-language, Puerto Rican identity, and working-class imagery. Symbolic moments of passing on his grammy, replicating La Casita and the bodegas, including the infamous Tonitas, el nenito asleep at the boda drove home the point that global success does not require cultural erasure, rather it desires and thrives from the community that it brings together – the unity.

With musical appearances by Lady Gaga singing a salsa rendition of her hit song "Die With A Smile' and Ricky Martin singing the chorus to "Los Que Paso A Hawaii" and officiating and celebrating an actual wedding during his performance, Bad Bunny embodied what being 'Latino' feels like. He put it together in a 13 minute and 41 second performance to show the world what he means when he says, "que rico es ser latino" which is how the halftime performance opened.

As dozens of performers marched toward the end zone carrying flags representing countries from all over the hemisphere of America, Bad Bunny's message became undoubtedly clear metaphorically and literally as it was boldly displayed on the giant scoreboard in the stadium, "The only thing more powerful than hate is love".

Levi's STADIUM
THE ONLY THING MORE POWERFUL THAN HATE IS LOVE

"God Bless America," he said as DtMf, the title track song from his recent studio album, filled Levi Stadium. The 13 minute profound, jaw-dropping-tear-jerking cinematic journey of the Super Bowl halftime ended with Martinez-Ocasio holding up a football with a statement clear and precise and very timely, "Together, we are Americans".

Reminding us that we all live in America and have so much more in common than we actually are different.

Bad Bunny's Tracklist for the Super Bowl goes as follows:

Tití Me Preguntó
Yo Perreo Sola
Safaera
Voy a Llevarte Pa' PR
EoO
Monaco
Die With a Smile
(with Lady Gaga)
BAILE INoLVIDABLE
NUEVAYoL
Lo Que Le Pasó a Hawaii
(with Ricky Martin)
El Apagón
Café Con Ron
DtMF

Juanita Zuniga is a graduate of Kalamazoo College with degrees in Anthropology, Sociology, and English. She was born and raised in SW Detroit and still resides there today. She is passionate about her community and hopes to serve it through writing. In her spare time. Juanita is a Latin history and music enthusiast. She is also a Cancer Sun, Libra Moon, and Cancer Rising.

This article was made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Detroit Taqueria Packed for Bad Bunny 2026 Super Bowl Halftime Show

By Beki San Martin for the Detroit Free Press | Reprinted with permission

The 2026 Super Bowl, Seattle Seahawks versus the New England Patriots, played on three different screens at Taqueria El Rey in southwest Detroit but the sound of Bad Bunny's voice singing "NUEVAYOLLLLL" drowned out any hope of hearing the game.

That didn't seem to bother many of those gathered at the night's event. The EventBrite flyer did, to be fair, label it a "Bad Bunny Super Bowl Watch Party" – not the other way around. Many had their backs turned from the game to chat over the blaring music or were up near the DJ booth, dancing with friends to a mix of Bad Bunny and old school reggaeton.

While some in the crowd of around 100 people that showed up on Sunday night were there for football, all of them were there for Bad Bunny, the Puerto Rican reggaetonero who's captured the heart of his island – they call him San Benito, or Saint Benito in English for his birth name – and fans across the globe. In 2025, the year he dropped Debi Tirar Mas Fotos, his sixth album and one packed with Puerto Rican pride, he was Spotify's top-streaming artist for the fourth time with 19.8 billion streams.

"I'm here for the halftime show," said Allanah Morales, 26, a Detroiter with Puerto Rican heritage who co-hosted the event. "I can't even describe how excited I feel. I feel so much pride. This little island, we're getting put on the map for one of what will probably be the biggest events in [Super Bowl] history."

Many young people like Morales were eager to share why it's a big deal that Bad Bunny's played the halftime show, a decision the NFL announced in September. The NFL's move sparked controversy among conservatives, including a number of Trump administration officials, who said his Spanish-language music would be exclusionary to an English-speaking audience. They also attacked the artist's politics, given his open criticism of the current administration's mass deportation agenda.

NFL officials defended the decision as one intended to unite Americans through a performance of one of the world's most popular artists. Experts say the move was also strategic given Latinos have become the NFL's fastest-growing fan base and the league's ambitions for international growth.

Michigan gubernatorial GOP primary candidate Perry Johnson spent millions on ads encouraging Super Bowl viewers to ditch the official show for Turning Point USA's rival performance, called the "All-American Halftime Show," headlined by artists including Kid Rock.

Ariana Ayala, 28 of Detroit, dismissed the controversy and rival halftime show. "Puerto Rico is part of America," she said.

Ayala doesn't usually care about Super Bowl games but she searched for an event like this one, so she could watch Bad Bunny – a moment that feels culturally significant in the U.S., she said, given that "Hispanics are being looked at as other than."

Rony Jimenez, 31, agrees. "We got a Latino performing for an American football league," he said. "He's Latin American and American, it's the best of both worlds. People want to make it about separation, but to me it's about unity."

The Oak Park resident is Venezuelan and said his Latino pride is also why he was excited for the game: Though his own team didn't make it to the Super Bowl, the Patriots' kicker is "the only Venezuelan in the league," so he rooted for New England.

The divisive tone struck over the Bad Bunny Super Bowl show is exactly what Deanna Solis hoped to shake off with her cousins at Taqueria El Rey and why she made the hour-long drive from Toledo, Ohio for the event.

"We're coming to celebrate and dance and have a good time with other people looking to, I don't know, escape, come together, enjoy the message, listen to good music," said Solis. "It's a humanity thing."

Solis and her two cousins, Jessica Gonzalez, 27 of Detroit and Juliana Solis, 22 of Novi, said they're all huge Bad Bunny fans and before the halftime show said they're main goal for the evening was to get people to dance.

The group had been salsa-ing since earlier in the event, when the dance floor was sparse. As halftime inched closer, it slowly swelled to over 100.

As Bad Bunny started his show, the crowd's screams and cheers could be heard from outside Taqueria El Rey. Inside, people were on their feet, packed together and all facing the TV screen at the front of the room watching the man they'd come there to see.

The crowd erupted with each new song Bad Bunny cycled through and patrons started waving and lifting up a Puerto Rican flag at the start of "El Apagón," a song steeped in Puerto Rican pride, about the island's worsening power outages.

"This is what we needed," said Joel Bielecki, 25, who is of Puerto Rican and Polish descent, after the show ended.

The energy in the room remained strong as the game resumed, potentially potent enough to keep the crowd dancing through the watch party's 2 a.m. end time.

"We're so proud to be Latino," said Juliana Solis. "I would choose to be Latina in every lifetime."

Michigan Attorney General Nessel Announces Online Form for Reporting Immigration Action

LANSING –Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel recently launched a new reporting form to collect information from residents regarding immigration action in Michigan. The form provides Michiganders with an avenue to report alleged misconduct by federal immigration agents in their communities.

The reporting form was announced at a roundtable discussion hosted by the Attorney General on February 4 focused on United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) response across Michigan. The roundtable brought together local elected officials, law enforcement representatives, legal advocacy organizations, clergy, and other leaders from impacted communities to engage in a thoughtful and solutions-oriented dialogue.

The new form comes in response to concerns from residents across the state. To date, the Department of Attorney General has received more than 5,000 emails from the public regarding immigration activity.

Michigan residents can access the ICE Abuse Reporting Form at https://bit.ly/4qujyMb or by scanning the QR code on this page.

"What we are seeing from federal immigration agents across the country has been deeply concerning," said Attorney General Nessel. "In Michigan, we do not, and will not tolerate harmful, illegal actions against our residents, and I will not hesitate to uphold the law. That includes investigating unlawful actions perpetrated by a federal officer in our state. This new form allows Michiganders to report alleged misconduct right to my office."

The form allows residents to submit specific incident details, including descriptions of the actions witnessed, the number of individuals involved and their group or agency affiliations, tools and weapons observed, and the time and location of the incident.

Michiganders are encouraged to provide a link to a video of what was witnessed, or a link to your social live video if available. Photo submissions can be submitted via email. Instructions will be provided in your confirmation email following the submission of the form. Residents are asked to not post unverified reports on social media.

The form may be submitted anonymously, and contact information provided will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. The Department of Attorney General may use the information to share with third parties, like local law enforcement, for other lawful reasons. Use of this form is not meant to replace reporting emergencies or crimes in your area to local law enforcement. Victims, witnesses to a crime, or those experiencing an emergency should contact their local police department or call 911.

Filing a report does not generate a complaint or start a lawsuit on your behalf. The Attorney General cannot give legal advice or represent individuals in court.

Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel

Immigration Action Reporting Form
Please use this form to report federal immigration government action in the state of Michigan. Visit https://bit.ly/4qujyMb

If you are a victim, witness to a crime, or experiencing an emergency, you should contact your local police department or call 911. Use of this form is not meant to replace reporting emergencies or crimes in your area to local law enforcement.

Note: Filing a report does not generate a complaint or start a lawsuit on your behalf. The Attorney General cannot give legal advice or represent individuals in court.

For questions on your legal rights or responsibilities, please contact a private attorney.

Your contact information, if you provide it, will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by law.

To learn how we safeguard your personal information, please read our privacy policy at mi.gov/som/footer/policies.

MHCC Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
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For more information contact Laura Geftos: lgeftos@mhcc.org

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EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS

Detroit Startup Fund

Application opens
February 2, 2026

Deadline: March 2, 2026

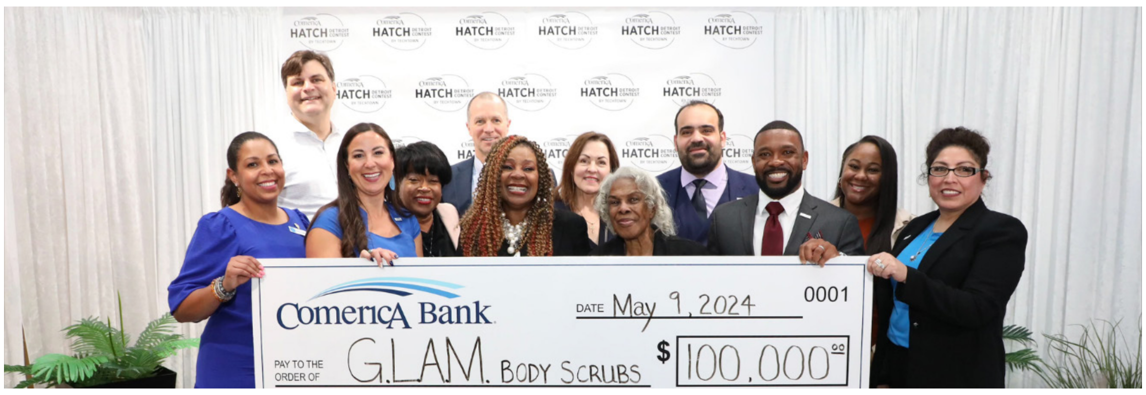
Are you building a tech-driven, scalable startup?
Detroit Startup Fund offers $15k Seed Grants and
$50k Scale Grants for companies with traction.
Open to Detroit-based and relocating founders.

Learn More: **https://bit.ly/AboutDSF**

DEGC

Retail competition offers chance to win a $100,000 cash grant

Applications Open for 14th Annual Comerica Hatch Detroit Contest by TechTown



Comerica HATCH 2024 Winner

Do you have a retail concept that the community will love? The Comerica Hatch Detroit Contest is a "crowd-entrepreneurship" competition where the public votes for their favorite business. One winner will walk away with a $100,000 cash grant, courtesy of Comerica Bank, to open their doors in Detroit, Hamtramck, or Highland Park. The Top 10 finalists also receive free consulting and in-kind services from TechTown Detroit

Last month, TechTown Detroit and Comerica Bank announced the return of the Comerica Hatch Detroit Contest by TechTown, a small business competition that awards $100,000 in startup funding as well as support services to one entrepreneur seeking to open a brick-and-mortar storefront in Detroit, Hamtramck or Highland Park. The competition, first launched in 2011, hatches small business development in Detroit and takes place over the next four months, with the winning business crowned in May.

"Having worked with entrepreneurs and applicants since the original launch of the Hatch Detroit Contest in 2011, we know many enter the Contest with great inspiration but lack some of the technical skills and knowledge to develop a complete business plan needed for the application," said Vittoria Katanski, TechTown Detroit Small Business Expert and Hatch Alumni Coordinator. "Through the years, applicants have found these Information Sessions valuable for both entering the Contest and learning more about building out plans that guide them in their launch and growing their own businesses. Besides the focus on the Contest, our goal at TechTown and through the Hatch Detroit program is to connect entrepreneurs to the best resources needed for them to succeed."

This program is best for savvy retail concepts or existing pop-ups ready to compete for the grand prize.

- The Prize: $100,000 cash grant + a package resources and coaching.
- The Experience: Public voting rounds, media exposure, and a high-energy "Hatch Off" pitching event.
- Application Deadline: February 27, 2026
- To Apply: Applications are now available on www.HatchDetroit.com/apply and close on Friday, Feb. 27 (11:59 p.m.). Entrepreneurs with a retail concept looking to establish their first brick-and-mortar location in Detroit, Hamtramck or Highland Park are eligible to apply.

Key Comerica Hatch Detroit Contest Dates:

Feb. 27: Applications close at 11:59 p.m.

March 11: Top 25 contestants notified

April 21: Top 10 contestants revealed

April 22-April 29: Top 10 public voting takes place

April 29: Top 4 announced

April 29-May 13: Top 4 public voting takes place

Wednesday, May 13: Winner announced at Hatch Off

Comerica Bank's Commitment to Hatch Detroit

For the second consecutive year, Comerica Bank and the Comerica Charitable Foundation are committing $200,000 to TechTown's Hatch Detroit program to support Detroit's small business economy. In addition to its financial commitment, Comerica works alongside TechTown to provide in-kind support, such as technical services for contestants, during the contest.

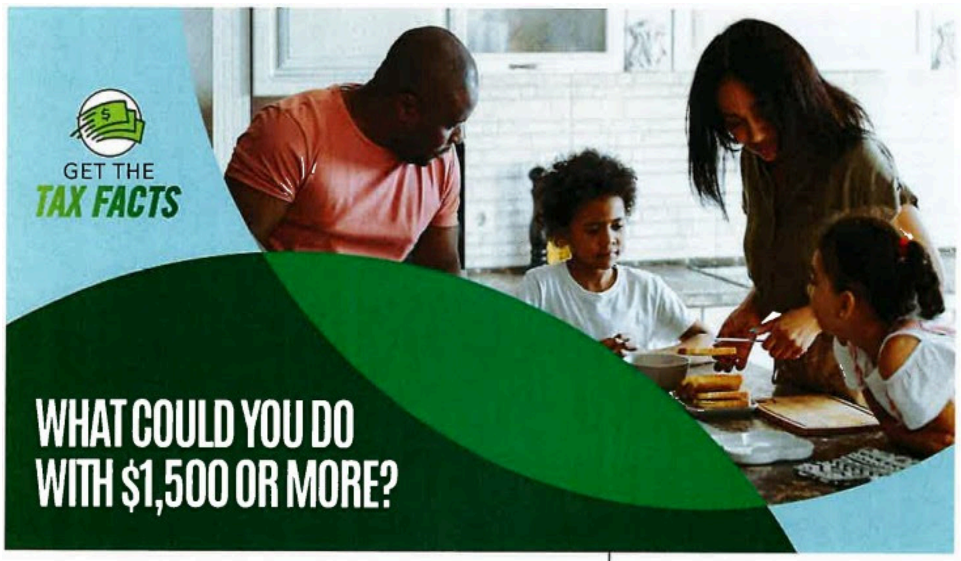
Including this year's contributions and grants, Comerica Bank and the Comerica Charitable Foundation have collectively committed over $1.5 million into Hatch Detroit since first supporting the small business program in 2012.

On Oct. 6, 2025, Fifth Third Bancorp and Comerica Incorporated announced that they have entered into a definitive merger agreement. The material regulatory and shareholder approvals to merge have been received, and the transaction is expected to close on Feb. 1, 2026, subject to the satisfaction or waiver of the remaining customary closing conditions. The merger will not affect the competition, and it will remain the Comerica Hatch Detroit Contest by TechTown through 2026.

Comerica Bank, a subsidiary of Comerica Incorporated (NYSE: CMA), is a financial services company headquartered in Dallas, Texas, and strategically aligned by three business segments: The Commercial Bank, The Retail Bank and Wealth Management. Comerica, one of the 25 largest commercial U.S. financial holding companies, provides banking centers across the country with locations in Arizona, California, Florida, Michigan and Texas. Comerica reported total assets of $80.1 billion at Dec. 31, 2025.

TechTown Detroit, Wayne State University's entrepreneurship hub, is a nonprofit business service organization that provides programs, education and resources for early- to growth-stage small businesses and tech entrepreneurs. By building bridges for entrepreneurs to succeed, TechTown is accelerating an inclusive economy for Detroit and Southeast Michigan. Since 2007, TechTown has supported more than 6,090 companies, which created 2,277 jobs and raised more than $406 million in startup and growth capital. For more information, visit techtowndetroit.org.

Hatch Detroit supports both existing and new retail initiatives in the cities of Detroit, Hamtramck and Highland Park. Hatch Detroit was founded in 2011 to give residents and aspiring entrepreneurs an opportunity to have a voice in neighborhood retail development and joined TechTown Detroit's suite of entrepreneurial programs and services in 2022. Beyond the contest, Hatch Detroit provides funding, exposure and mentoring in support of its alumni entrepreneurs. With support from Hatch Detroit, 50 alumni have opened businesses. They employ over 500 people and have invested over $10 million in economic development. To learn more, visit hatchdetroit.com.



Cash payments are available when filing your taxes in 2026.

You may qualify if you:

- Earned less than $69,000 in 2025 OR
- Have a child under 17 living with you and earned at least $2,500 from work in 2025 OR
- Care for a disabled child or adult OR
- Paid rent, property taxes, or heating costs for your home in 2025

Exact details vary based on the specific tax credit, your tax filing status, and the number of people in your household. Some, but not all, tax credits require that you or your children have a Social Security Number.

IRS-CERTIFIED TAX PREPARATION PARTNERS
Accounting Aid Society
Wayne Metropolitan

COORDINATION PARTNERS
CDAD

OUTREACH PARTNERS
Detroit Public Library
MACC Development
HOPE Village
Single Family Living

FUNDING PARTNERS
ballmer group
Comerica
The Kresge Foundation

FILING DOESN'T HAVE TO BE HARD.
EXPERT HELP IS AVAILABLE AT NO COST TO YOU.
Schedule now at GetTheTaxFacts.org or call 2-1-1.

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¿Qué podría hacer con
$1,500 O MÁS?

Presente los impuestos en el 2026 y reclame sus beneficios.

Usted puede calificar si:

- Tuvo ingresos menores de $69,000 en el 2025 O;
- Tiene un hijo menor de 17 viviendo con usted y tuvo ingresos laborales de por lo menos $2,500 en el 2025 O;
- Tiene un adulto o niño con discapacidades bajo su cuidado O;
- Pagó la renta, impuestos prediales o los costos de calefacción de su hogar en 2025

Los detalles exactos pueden variar según el tipo específico del crédito tributario, su estado civil para efectos de la declaración, y el número de personas en su hogar. Algunos de los créditos tributarios requieren que usted o sus hijos tengan Número de Seguro Social.

ما الذي يمكن تفعل ب
1500 دولار أو اكثر؟

تتوفر المدفوعات النقدية عند تقديم ضرائبك في عام 2026.

قد تكون موهلا إذا:

- حصلت على أقل من 69,000 دولار في عام 2025 او
- لديك طفل دون سن ال 17 عاما يعيش معك وكسب ما لا يقل عن 2,500 دولار من العمل في عام 2025 او.
- رعاية طفل او بالغ من ذوي الاحتياجات الخاصة او
- تكون قد دفعت الإيجار او ضريبة الممتلكات أو تكاليف التدفئة لمنزلك في عام 2025.

تختلف بعض التفاصيل بناء على الخصم الضريبي المحدد حالة التقدم,و عدد افراد اسرتك .بعض و ليس كل الخصومات الضريبية تتطلب ان تمتلك أنت أو أطفالك رقم ضمان اجتماعي Social Security Number.

DECLARAR SUS IMPUESTOS NO TIENE POR QUÉ SER DIFÍCIL.
EXPERTOS ESTÁN DISPONIBLES SIN COSTO PARA USTED.
Programe ahora en GetTheTaxFacts.org/es o llame al 2-1-1.

لا يجب أن يكون التسجيل صعب.
مساعدة الخبراء موجودة دون أي تكلفة عليك.
حدد موعد الآن على GetTheTaxFacts.org أو اتصل بالرقم 2-1-1.

Detroit District 6 Budget Meeting Solicits Resident Input

By Estefania Arellano-Bermudez

With a $3.08 billion budget, the 2026 Detroit fiscal year will include a general fund of $1.58 billion, Detroit city officials reported at the recent District 6 budget meeting on January 29. The meeting offered an overview into the city's financial structure to the 30 zoom participants in virtual attendance.

Matt Spayth, Assistant Budget Director for the City of Detroit, explained that Detroit's general fund relies heavily on economic activity. He noted that other major revenue sources include wagering taxes from casinos and online sports betting, property taxes, and state revenue sharing. Together, those sources account for almost 80% of the general fund revenue.

There was some emphasis on the city's post-bankruptcy decision to establish a retiree protection fund.

"What we did after bankruptcy is over the course of 10 years, we put payments into this retiree protection fund. It was basically a nest egg we built to cover legacy pension costs that eventually took effect 10 years after the bankruptcy," Spayth said. These funds have been in use since the 2024 fiscal year.

Detroit is legally required to pass a balanced budget. The largest share of city spending falls under infrastructure, recreation, and beautification. This includes water and sewage services, vehicle fleet services, and demolition and capital projects. The next biggest share of spending is public health and safety, which includes police, fire, and the health department.

Spayth stressed that while Detroit's total budget consists of multiple restricted funds, the general fund offers the greatest opportunity for public input. The general fund is 38% employee wages and 10% debt payments and pre-bankruptcy pension costs.

"That's really where there's room for discretionary decision making on how the budget can be used and that represents around roughly $700 million or so," Spayth said.

After the budget overview, residents were invited to participate in an interactive polling process to identify priorities. Requests for immigrant safety and general aid for the immigrant population were part of the feedback. Transportation ranked as a top concern, followed by sidewalks, home repairs, and affordable housing. According to Spayth, transportation was a top priority last year as well.

In the public comment section, residents raised concerns about transportation, water affordability, environmental justice, and immigrant concerns.

"In Detroit, we've seen water rates go up 285% since 1980," resident Norelle Hemphill said. "We desperately need affordable water rates for Detroiters."

On the call was Alejandro who spoke about the increased ICE activity across the nation and in Detroit, which has caused distress among the community. Alejandro called for the city to create a legal aid fund for detained families. He also expressed a city-wide need for better translation services so immigrant residents feel safe engaging with city services.

Residents called attention to environmental justice issues, air pollution, and the impact of truck traffic on neighborhood streets and homes. Eva Torres, District 6 Manager, ended the meeting by encouraging residents to take part in public city meetings.

"We want you all to be a part of this budget for the upcoming year," Torres said.

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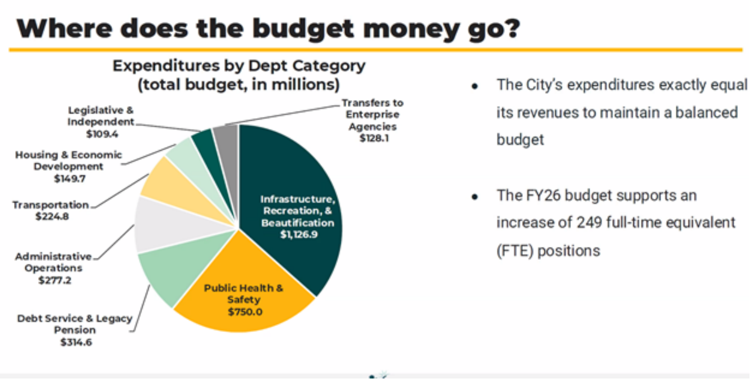
Estefania Arellano-Bermudez is a Latina freelance writer living in metro Detroit. She is a regular contributor to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News and a member of Planet Detroit's Neighborhood Reporting Lab.

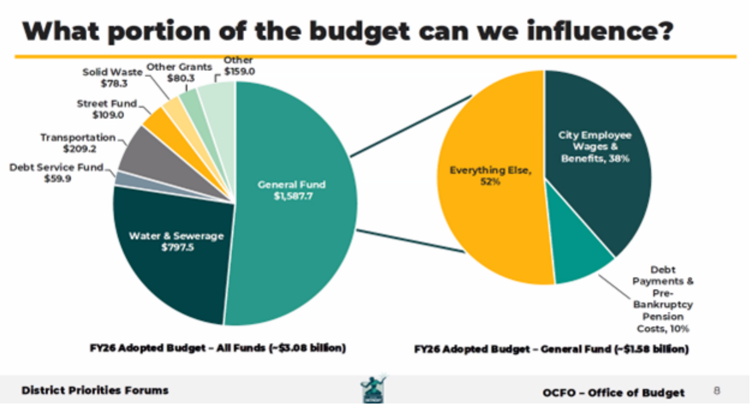
This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.



Where does the budget money go?

Expenditures by Dept Category (total budget, in millions)

- The City's expenditures exactly equal its revenues to maintain a balanced budget
- The FY26 budget supports an increase of 249 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions



What portion of the budget can we influence?

FY26 Adopted Budget – All Funds (~$3.08 billion)

FY26 Adopted Budget – General Fund (~$1.58 billion)

District Priorities Forums OCFO – Office of Budget 8

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EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

De la oficina del Tesorero del Condado de Wayne,
Eric R. Sabree

PUEDE AYUDARLO CON EL PROCESO DE ASISTENCIA CON SUCESIONES

¿Se enfrenta a una ejecución hipotecaria y necesita ayuda para iniciar un proceso de sucesiones en el Tribunal de Sucesiones del Condado de Wayne porque una propiedad está a nombre de un familiar fallecido?

COMUNÍQUESE CON UNO DE NUESTROS SOCIOS COMUNITARIOS:

Michigan Legal Services: 313-964-4130
MILegalServices.org

United Community Housing Coalition: 313-725-4560
UCHCDetroit.org

Lakeshore Legal Aid: 888-783-8190
LakeshoreLegalAid.org

www.Treasurer.WayneCounty.com
313-224-5990

¡Estamos aquí para ayudarle!

Invisible Grief of Deportation

Continued from page 1

around and all of a sudden that family member is no longer physically here," Beckley-Amaya says. "You're absolutely going through a grieving process."

Grieving is typically understood as a private experience that you deal with alone, but practices such as Dia de Los Muertos show that it doesn't have to be. "You realize how much of that isn't personal grief," says Sanroman Rojas. "This work isn't just about me, these issues aren't just mine alone."

The idea of an altar is not just specific to the Latino community. Similar practices exist across cultures worldwide. These traditions display the benefits of collective healing through the support of one's community. For the project's co-creators, it was crucial that grief related to deportation and immigration be brought to light in a visual, tangible way.

Beckley-Amaya explains, "That's why we have funerals, memorials, right? Vigils. So that is kind of where the idea for the altar came from for collective grief, because it was not only a very visual thing that you can see as you're driving or walking through the community, you can see these up and know that someone is there acknowledging the pain and the suffering that you're going through." She added, "even if you don't have a family member that's deported, (they could be) just living in fear of it".

With immigration issues at the forefront under the Trump administration, the need for community support is now more pressing than ever. The altars are more than just the physical structures themselves, but about giving many people who feel hopeless the agency to do something to be connected and feel validated in their grief.

"There is so much out of our day-to-day control when it comes down to these immigration issues and these fears," Sanroman Rojas said." So when you can switch the narrative a bit, it was beautiful to see."

Beckley-Amaya and Sanroman Rojas hope to continue this project with the help of volunteers and plan to do another installation closer to the spring. They aim not only to expand their reach throughout Detroit, but also to other cities across Michigan as the project grows.

Those interested in supporting the project and their mission can volunteer for the spring installation by signing up on their website or donating altar supplies at the Vamonos! drop box. Businesses interested in having an altar of their own can reach out through the email listed on the project's website.

Organizations that helped with supplies and other collaborations include Vamonos! (gathering space), Motor City Street Dance Academy (candles and supplies), Garage Cultural (tape/supplies), Calavera Rose (altar items), Sanos Southwest (altar items) and Team Gabriela Santiago-Romero (vases).

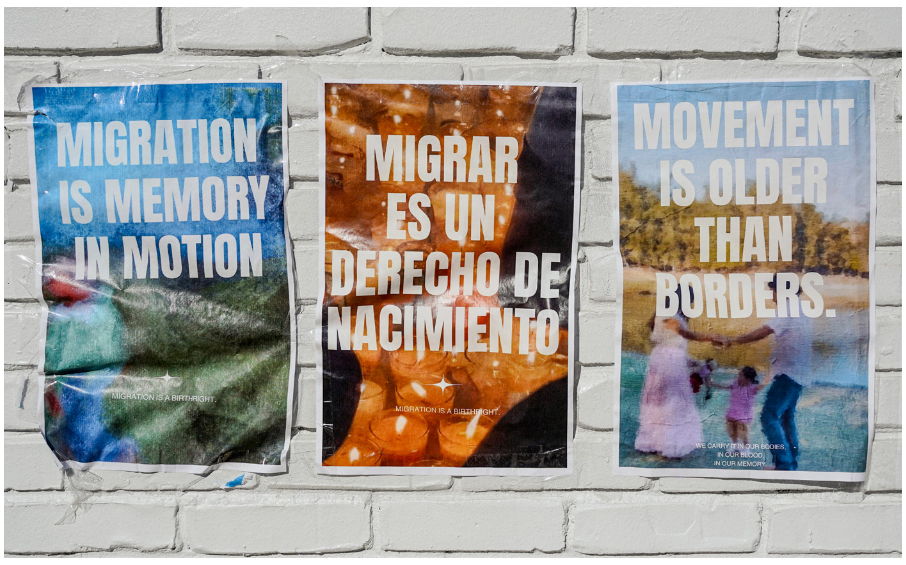
Altar supply donation list needs:

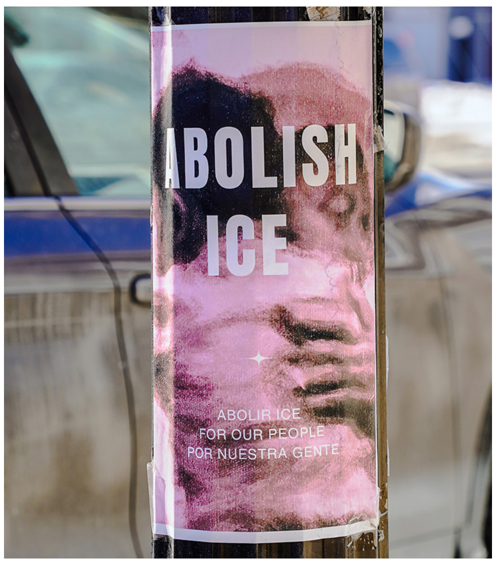
- Electric tea candles
- Fake or dried flowers
- Vases or candle stands
- Fabric
- Packing tape
- Small pallets for altar bases

To get involved or show your support, email altarsforcollectivegrief@gmail.com or visit www.altarsforcollectivegrief.com

Luciana Vega is a photojournalist with a background in healthcare and a deep love for the culture and community of Southwest Detroit. Passionate about its vibrant music scene, she aims to capture and share the stories of its people through photography.

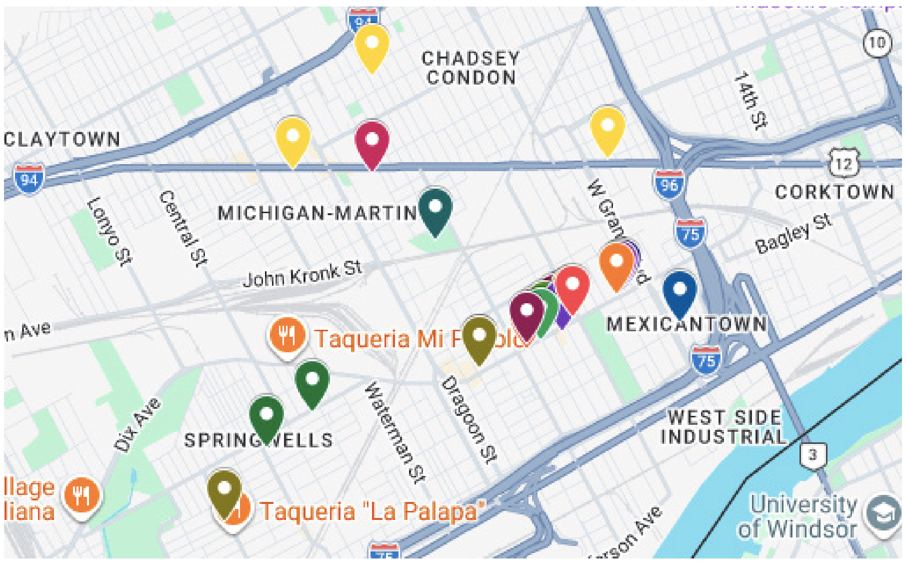
This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.


MIGRATION IS MEMORY IN MOTION
MIGRATION IS A BIRTHRIGHT
MIGRAR ES UN DERECHO DE NACIMIENTO
MIGRATION IS A BIRTHRIGHT
MOVEMENT IS OLDER THAN BORDERS.
WE CARRY IT IN OUR BODIES, IN OUR BLOOD, IN OUR MEMORY



WE MOVE THE WAY OUR ANCESTORS TAUGHT US.
MIGRATION IS AN INHERITED KNOWLEDGE
Altar for Col

Theresa Beckley-Amaya (left) and Julianna Sanroman Rojas (right), cofounders of Alters for Collective Grief.



Map of altar locations, available to view at altersforcollectivegrief.com.

El duelo invisible de la deportación

Continuado de la página 1

las personas sintiéndose avergonzadas, aisladas y confundidas sobre cómo lidiar con ello. "Estás acostumbrado a tener a un familiar cerca y de repente ese familiar ya no está físicamente aquí", dice Beckley-Amaya. "Definitivamente estás pasando por un proceso de duelo".

El duelo se entiende típicamente como una experiencia privada que se enfrenta solo, pero prácticas como el Día de los Muertos muestran que no tiene por qué ser así. "Te das cuenta de cuánto de eso no es duelo personal", dice Sanroman Rojas. "Este trabajo no se trata solo de mí, estos problemas no son solo míos".

La idea de un altar no es específica solo de la comunidad latina. Prácticas similares existen en culturas de todo el mundo. Estas tradiciones muestran los beneficios de la sanación colectiva a través del apoyo de la comunidad. Para las co-creadoras del proyecto, era crucial que el duelo relacionado con la deportación y la inmigración saliera a la luz de una manera visual y tangible.

Beckley-Amaya explica: "Por eso tenemos funerales, memoriales, ¿verdad? Vigilias. Así que de ahí surgió la idea del altar para el duelo colectivo, porque no solo era una cosa muy visual que puedes ver mientras conduces o caminas por la comunidad, puedes verlos y saber que alguien está ahí reconociendo el dolor y el sufrimiento por el que estás pasando". Ella agregó: "incluso si no tienes un familiar que haya sido deportado, podrías estar simplemente viviendo con el miedo de ello".

Con los problemas de inmigración en primer plano bajo la administración Trump, la necesidad de apoyo comunitario es ahora más apremiante que nunca. Los altares son más que solo las estructuras físicas en sí; se trata de dar a muchas personas que se sienten desesperanzadas la agencia para hacer algo para conectarse y sentirse validadas en su duelo.

"Hay tanto fuera de nuestro control diario cuando se trata de estos problemas de inmigración y estos miedos", dijo Sanroman Rojas. "Así que cuando puedes cambiar un poco la narrativa, es hermoso de ver".

Beckley-Amaya y Sanroman Rojas esperan continuar este proyecto con la ayuda de voluntarios y planean hacer otra instalación cerca de la primavera. Su objetivo no es solo expandir su alcance por todo Detroit, sino también en otras ciudades de Michigan a medida que el proyecto crezca.

Aquellos interesados en apoyar el proyecto y su misión pueden ser voluntarios para la instalación de primavera registrándose en su sitio web o donando suministros para altares en el buzón de entrega de Vamonos!. Las empresas interesadas en tener un altar propio pueden comunicarse a través del correo electrónico que aparece en el sitio web del proyecto.

Las organizaciones que ayudaron con suministros y otras colaboraciones incluyen: Vamonos! (espacio de reunión), Motor City Street Dance Academy (velas y suministros), Garage Cultural (cinta adhesiva/suministros), Calavera Rose (artículos de altar), Sanos Southwest (artículos de altar) y Team Gabriela Santiago-Romero (jarrones).

Lista de necesidades de donación de suministros para los altares:

- Velas de batería
- Flores falsas o secas
- Jarrones o portavelas
- Tela
- Cinta de embalaje
- Pequeñas tarimas (pallets) para bases de altares

Para participar o mostrar su apoyo, envíe un correo electrónico a altarsforcollectivegrief@gmail.com o visite www.altarsforcollectivegrief.com

Luciana Vega es una fotoperiodista con experiencia en atención médica y un profundo amor por la cultura y la comunidad de Southwest Detroit. Apasionada por su vibrante escena musical, su objetivo es capturar y compartir las historias de su gente a través de la fotografía.

Este artículo y las fotos fueron posibles gracias a una generosa subvención a EL CENTRAL Hispanic News por parte de Press Forward, el movimiento nacional para fortalecer las comunidades revigorizando las noticias locales. Conozca más en www.pressforward.news.

GUEST OPINION: ARCHBISHOP W

La violencia de ICE , la separación de niños pone en crisis el alma de los Estados Unidos

Edward J. Weisenburger, colaborador de opinión | Fotos de Daniel Meloy | Detroit Catholic

Nota del editor: La siguiente columna del arzobispo de Detroit, Edward J. Weisenburger, se publicó originalmente el 1 de febrero de 2026 en el *Detroit Free Press*.

A la luz de los recientes y trágicos incidentes relacionados con la aplicación de las leyes de inmigración, muchas personas han solicitado mi opinión sobre los procedimientos de inmigración de nuestra nación.

De hecho, este es uno de los temas que me quita el sueño por las noches.

Antes de abordar la pregunta, permítanme relatar parte de mi historia personal que, junto con el Evangelio y las enseñanzas católicas, han influido profundamente en mi comprensión de la situación.

“Lo que hagan al más pequeño de los míos, me lo hacen a mí”

Cuando serví como obispo de Tucson, Arizona, mi diócesis abarcaba todo lo que es la frontera entre Arizona y México. Durante mi tiempo allí, Caridades Católicas de Tucson coordinó la acogida de miles de inmigrantes, en colaboración con entidades gubernamentales.

Aunque normalmente el número era mucho menor, en su punto máximo nuestra organización Caridades Católicas procesó como a 1,400 solicitantes de asilo e inmigrantes por día. Si bien la teología católica no distingue entre ayudar a inmigrantes con o sin documentos, debo señalar que todas las personas a las que ayudamos nos fueron remitidas por la Patrulla Fronteriza de los Estados Unidos u otros agentes federales, y todas ellas poseían documentos de inmigración válidos.

En mis interacciones con estos inmigrantes, al escuchar sus historias, sabía que estaba en tierra sagrada. También fui testigo de las heridas traumáticas de quienes habían visto morir a familiares o habían hecho todo lo posible por encontrar alimento para sus hijos hambrientos. Esa experiencia me cambió para siempre, y cuando la relaciono con la enseñanza de nuestro Señor —“Lo que hagan al más pequeño de los míos, a mí me lo hacéis”—, me siento obligado a hablar en nombre de ellos.

Fatal y tóxico

En las últimas semanas, hemos sido testigos de cómo un niño de 5 años, Liam Conejo Ramos, fue separado de su madre y trasladado rápidamente junto con su padre desde Minnesota a un centro de detención en Texas. Esta rápida reubicación parece ser una política que busca separar a los detenidos de sus familias, su comunidad y de cualquier asistencia legal local.

JESUS WEEPS
WHEN FAMILIES ARE SEPARATED
Stand Down
EDUC
Never Taught

Kim Redigan, miembro de Gesu Parish en Detroit y directora del ministerio del campus en la Detroit Cristo Rey High School, sostiene un cartel de solidaridad con las familias separadas.

Dado que esta familia ingresó a Estados Unidos como solicitantes legales de asilo sin haber cometido ningún delito, muchos se preguntan: ¿por qué centrarse en ellos? Tras haber fracasado en gran medida en detener y deportar la gran cantidad de criminales violentos como se prometió, ¿está ahora el Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) deteniendo a solicitantes legales de asilo solo para dar una apariencia de éxito?

Luego fuimos testigos del asesinato de Renee Good, cuya muerte a manos de agentes de ICE, fue declarada homicidio por la oficina del médico forense local. En lugar de permitir una investigación transparente e independiente, nuestro gobierno federal ha sido poco cooperativo e insiste en realizar solamente el equivalente a una investigación interna.

Más recientemente, hemos tenido la trágica muerte de Alex Pretti, un enfermero del Hospital de Asuntos de Veteranos. Una preocupación común en ambas muertes es que parecen haber sido casos que resultaron debido al uso excesivo y letal de la fuerza por parte de agentes federales. La situación se vuelve aún más tóxica por el hecho de que los líderes difamaron a Good y a Pretti a pocas horas después de sus muertes, a pesar de no contar con conocimiento sustancial de los hechos en ese momento.

El alma de los Estados Unidos está en riesgo

Debo admitir que, al contemplar esta situación en su totalidad, me siento perplejo y profundamente perturbado.

Como estadounidense orgulloso, siempre he vivido con la creencia de que somos una nación con valores fundamentales, una nación de virtudes nobles, una nación fundada sobre el estado de derecho y respetuosa de los derechos humanos. Mas a menudo, me pregunto si nuestra nación está perdiendo su alma, su propia esencia.

Por esta razón, uno mi voz al creciente número de personas que han expresado una grave preocupación por lo que está sucediendo entre nosotros.

También rechazo cualquier noción de una investigación interna de estos incidentes y, en su lugar, hago un llamado a una revisión independiente y transparente de estas acciones.

Por último, hago un llamado a la reunificación inmediata de niños pequeños completamente inocentes, que han sido separados de sus madres. ¿Acaso no somos mejores que esto?

El Congreso debe elaborar una reforma migratoria razonable

Debemos reconocer que una gran parte de la responsabilidad de esta catástrofe recae en el fracaso de nuestro gobierno federal para elaborar una reforma migratoria razonable.

Ante la ausencia de ese liderazgo federal, no debería sorprendernos la crisis humanitaria y moral que se ha producido.

Parece que los estadounidenses solo pueden concebir dos opciones: fronteras abiertas sin ningún tipo de restricciones, o fronteras cerradas sin inmigración de ningún tipo.

Esa dicotomía es una falacia. Es totalmente posible reconocer, respetar y defender nuestras fronteras, al mismo tiempo que se forja un camino para el mismo tipo de inmigración que trajo a muchos de nuestros antepasados a esta nación.

Creo que nuestros legisladores electos son inteligentes y capaces. Lo que falta es una determinación unificada para impulsar esta reforma migratoria crucial y tan necesaria. Aunque reconozco que es una tarea abrumadora, no obstante, insto a nuestros legisladores a abordar lo que es verdaderamente una cuestión de vida o muerte, aunque ello implique enfrentarse a la avalancha de críticas de quienes están firmemente atrincherados en uno u otro lado de esta crisis.

La exigencia ética de Cristo

Sin una reforma migratoria sustancial que equilibre la protección legítima de las fronteras con la misericordia que siempre ha sido la base de nuestra nación, temo que seguiremos viendo a niños de 5 años separados de sus madres, a ciudadanos estadounidenses asesinados mientras protestan o ejercen su derecho a la libertad de expresión, y a inmigrantes documentados que llegaron a este país por los canales correctos, detenidos para ser deportados.

Una vez más, estos temas son fundamentales para el discípulo de Jesucristo. “Lo que hacemos al más pequeño de nosotros, se lo hacemos a Él” es una exigencia ética que debe resonar en nuestros corazones y revelarse en nuestras vidas.

Pido a los fieles que se unan a las personas de buena voluntad en todas partes y que apoyen a quienes tienen miedo de salir de sus hogares, miedo de ir al hospital, miedo de llevar a sus hijos a la escuela, miedo de comprar alimentos: aquellos que se ven obligados a vivir con miedo cada momento de cada día.

Así es como caminamos junto a Jesucristo. Y a través de nuestras voces y nuestro testimonio siempre respetuoso y no violento, tal vez podamos mostrar que el alma de nuestra gran nación sigue viva y presente en nosotros.

Que Dios los bendiga, que Dios bendiga a quienes están en riesgo y que Dios bendiga a nuestra gran nación.

Edward J. Weisenburger es el arzobispo de Detroit. Este artículo expresa las opiniones de su autor, independientemente de las de esta publicación.

AND HE WILL SAY I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU...
LOVE HAS NO BORDERS

Muchas personas en las manifestaciones portaban pancartas con mensajes religioso que pedían reconocer la presencia de Dios en los migrantes e inmigrantes.

Archbishop Weisenburger: ICE violence, child separations put America's soul in crisis

Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger | Photos by Daniel Meloy | Detroit Catholic

Editor's note: The following column by Detroit Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger was first published Feb. 1, 2026, in the *Detroit Free Press*.

I WAS A STRANGER & YOU WELCOMED ME
END THE WAR ON IMMIGRANTS
END THE WAR ON IMMIGRANTS

Sr. Cathey Desantis, CSJ, (right) joined her fellow Congregation of St. Joseph sisters in advocating for a more humane immigration policy. Sr. Desantis said at times, all the sisters feel they can do is demonstrate on behalf of migrants amidst frustration with the turmoil and rhetoric surrounding immigration in the United States

In the light of recent and tragic immigration enforcement incidents, a great many individuals have asked my opinion of our nation's immigration procedures.

Actually, they are among the issues that keep me awake at night.

Before I address the question, please allow me to recount a portion of my personal history which — along with the Gospel and Catholic teachings — has profoundly affected my understanding of the situation.

'What you do to the least among you, you do to me'

When I served as the Bishop of Tucson, Arizona, my diocese contained the entire Arizona-Mexico border. Working with government entities, Tucson's Catholic Charities coordinated the reception of thousands of immigrants during my tenure.

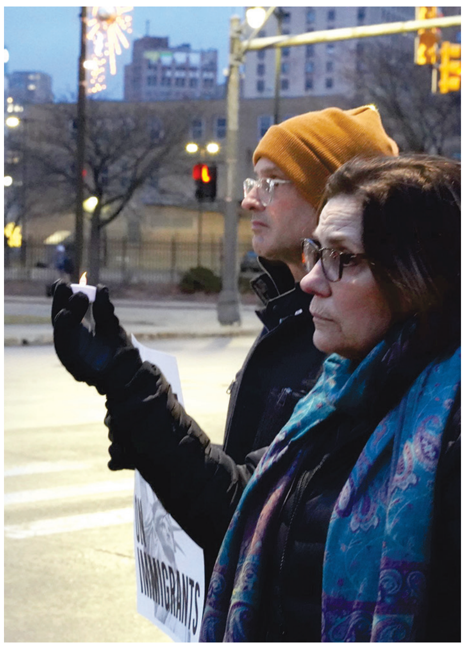
While it was usually a far lesser number, at its peak our Catholic Charities processed 1,400 asylum-seekers and immigrants per day. While Catholic theology makes no distinction between assisting immigrations with or without documents, I would note that every person we assisted was brought to us by the U.S. Border Patrol or other federal agents, and each was in possession of valid immigration documents.

In my own interactions with these immigrants, I knew I was on holy ground as I would hear their stories. I would also witness the traumatic wounds of those who had seen relatives killed or did all they could to find food for starving children. I am forever changed by that experience, and when I couple it with Our Lord's teaching, "What you do to the least among you, you do to me," I am compelled to speak on their behalf.

Fatal and toxic

In the last few weeks, we have witnessed a 5-year-old child, Liam Conejo Ramos, separated from his mother and quickly sent with his father from Minnesota to a detention center in Texas. This fast relocation of detainees seems to be a policy that seeks to separate the detained from family, community or any local legal assistance.

As this family entered the U.S. as legal asylum-seekers and committed no crimes, many are left to wonder, why focus on them? Having largely failed to detain and deport the large numbers of violent criminals as promised, is Immigrations and Customs Enforcement now rounding up legal asylum seekers for the sake of an optic of success?



People hold electric candlelights during a silent prayer vigil on Michigan Avenue in front of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Detroit office.

We then witnessed the killing of Renee Good, whose death at the hands of ICE agents was ruled a homicide by the local medical examiner's office. Rather than allowing for a transparent and independent investigation of the death, our federal government is uncooperative, and insisting on doing only the equivalent of an internal investigation.

More recently, we have the tragic death of Alex Pretti, a Veterans Affairs Hospital nurse. A common concern in both deaths is that they appear to have been fatal overuses of violent force on the part of federal agents. The matter is made further toxic by leadership vilifying Good and Pretti within hours of their killings, despite having no substantial knowledge of the facts at that time.

America's soul is at risk

I must admit that when I look at the totality of this situation, I am dumbfounded and deeply disturbed.

As a proud American, I have always lived by the belief that we are a nation of guiding values, a nation of noble virtues, a nation established on the rule of law and respectful of human rights. Increasingly, I find myself asking if our nation is losing its very soul.

For this reason, I join my voice to the growing number of those who have expressed grave concern for what is happening in our midst.

I also reject any notion of an internal investigation of these incidents, and instead call for an independent and transparent review of these actions.

Lastly, I call for a restoration of entirely innocent small children who have been separated from their mothers. Are we not better than that?

Congress must craft reasonable immigration reform

We must acknowledge that a substantial degree of responsibility for this catastrophe flows from the failure of our federal government to craft reasonable immigration reform.

Missing that federal leadership, we should not be surprised at the humanitarian and moral crisis that has resulted.

It seems that Americans can only envision two options: Either open borders with no restraint, or closed borders with no immigration of any kind.

That dichotomy is a lie. It is quite possible to acknowledge, respect and defend our borders, while also creating a path for the same kind of immigration that brought many of our ancestors to this nation.

I believe that our elected legislators are intelligent and capable. What is lacking is unified resolve to create this critical immigration reform. While admitting that it is a daunting task, I nevertheless urge our legislators to address what is truly a life-or death issue, even if it entails braving the onslaught of criticism from those entrenched on one side or the other of this crisis.

Christ's ethical demand

Without substantial immigration reform that balances legitimately maintained borders with the mercy that has always been at the root of our nation, I fear we will continue to see 5-year-olds separated from mothers, American citizens killed while protesting or exercising their right to free speech and documented immigrants who arrived in this nation via the correct channels rounded up for deportation.

Again, these issues are fundamental to the disciple of Jesus Christ. "What we do to the least among us, we do to Him" is an ethical demand that must resonate in our hearts and be revealed in our lives.

I ask the faithful to join with people of good will everywhere and to stand with those who are afraid to leave their homes, afraid to go to the hospital, afraid to take their children to school, afraid to buy groceries — those who are forced to live in fear every moment of every day.

These are the ways we stand with Jesus Christ. And between our voices and our always respectful, nonviolent witness, we might just reveal that the soul of our great nation is alive and well in us.

May God bless you, may God bless those at risk and may God bless our great nation.

Edward J. Weisenburger is the Archbishop of Detroit. This article expresses the opinions of the author, independent of this publication.

HONK TO SUPPORT REFUGEES
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
RESPECT The inherent DIGNITY of EACH PERSON

Members of Strangers No Longer, a Catholic lay apostolate advocating for immigration reform, join about 80 others in a silent prayer vigil early Jan. 14 in front of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Detroit office.

DCFC Defeats Louisville Triumph, 9-7

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS

Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos by Adam J. Dewey/ EL CENTRAL PHOTOGRAPHER

This past Saturday, the DCFC MASL Women defeated Louisville Triumph, 9-7, handing Louisville Triumph their first loss of the season.

The DCFC go on the road for a rematch against Lousiville Triumph,this Sunday, February 15th at 7:45 pm, then return home for the last three games of the regular season, hosting Kalamazoo United, Saturday, February 21st at 7:30 pm, then Youngstown Nighthawks, Saturday, February 28th, at 7:30 pm, and then Columbus Eagles FC, Saturday, March 7th at 7:30

Photos below are highlights from DCFC vs. Louisville Triumph game at the Detroit City Fieldhouse

Kayla Addison (#9) and Mackenzie Reuber (#15) celebrate a DCFC goal

Zoe Greenhalge (#14) races for the ball against a Louisville Triumph FC defender along the DCFC bench

Amanda Britain (#23) challenges a Louisville Triumph FC attacker to regain possession of the ball

Karina Medina (#6) pushes the ball upfield during DCFC's 9-7 victory over Louisville Triumph FC in which she was named Dawg of the Match for her top tier performance

Fatima Nasser (#91) handles the ball along the boards while on defense

Ania Dow (#20) makes a tackle in attempt to regain possession of the ball

Who's Going To The World Cup?

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

Bringing the men's World Cup to the United States, Canada, and Mexico will be a money-making venture like no other. FIFA, ostensibly a non-profit organization, has taken advantage of North American consumers like no other sporting outfit ever has. They have taken advantage of the American system of dynamic pricing for event tickets, created lucrative hospitality packages, and even set up their own ticket resale system.

The result will make the 2026 World Cup the most expensive in history for fans to attend. Only a select few fortunate fans will be selected to pay the quite reasonable $60 per ticket for first round group matches. The rates go up wildly from there. On Seat Geek, a popular ticket selling site, the least expensive ticket for any game is currently $211 to see Cape Verde play Saudi Arabia in Houston. In most World Cups, people would be giving away tickets to see those teams.

This World Cup will have 48 teams spread out over three countries, playing 104 games. Most venues are NFL or NFL-sized stadiums. Even with an estimated 7.1 million tickets available, the demand has far outstripped the supply of tickets. FIFA claimed up to 500 million applications came into their website. They had a random selection draw last week and notices went out to both the successful and unsuccessful applicants. For those hoping to the one of the hosts, it was an agonizing wait.

Forgive me for making this personal, something I prefer to avoid. I applied for several games, including two for the US men's team under what FIFA calls the PMA category. PMA is the acronym for Participating Member Association, because I am a supporter of US Soccer. I hoped to experience something with my son that I enjoyed with my recently deceased father in 1994. My dad took our whole family to multiple games in 1994, starting with the opening match in Chicago and ending a month-long festival at the final in Pasadena. That included seeing the USA play at the Silverdome in Pontiac. We went to 13 games in 5 cities, with at least one match in each round. We were able to include a number of friends for those games. It was an incredible experience enjoyed with people from all over the country and the world.

For this World Cup, the lack of nearby venues, like Detroit and Chicago were in 1994, will mean air travel to any games. Inflation has driven up airfares. Greed has inflated hotel prices for even least expensive chains. For example, I checked the rates for a hotel in Seattle for which I paid around $350 a night a couple of years ago and found that they had nothing under $1,100 during the USA's group match against Australia. Security concerns have made travel more cumbersome. And, the eye-watering ticket prices made my hopes more modest for going to games.

The random selection draw results came out over the weekend. I was "partially successful." I applied for eight games in a variety of venues and succeeded with one. I am taking my son to Houston to see Portugal play Uzbekistan. Coincidentally the game falls on his birthday, so this will be an expensive present, but one that will mean everything to both of us. Even better, two of his friends from school also won tickets for that game, meaning we can have a little birthday party in Texas. No doubt, stories like mine are happening around the country and the world. There are also many people who weren't successful at all. Their stories and their sadness at being unable to join the world's biggest celebration of sport will be just as compelling as any other.

What will be interesting to watch during the next three months is the way ticket prices fluctuate on the open market now that the latest ticket draw has taken place. People who are desperate to see their nations play will be hitting the secondary market. If they use the FIFA ticket exchange, they have to be aware that FIFA takes a 15% commission from the seller and the buyer.

Once the tournament starts, as teams are eliminated after each stage, tickets will hit the market from fans whose teams are no longer involved. That may be a last-minute opportunity to make a mad dash to a far off location to be part of the festivities. The results of the group phase games might also cause people to change their minds. A team expected to win their group that suddenly qualifies as a runner-up or third place team will have a completely different travel schedule. That causes complications which could lead to tickets becoming available.

FIFA appears to have gone out of their way to monetize everything associated with this World Cup. Even the fan fests are going to charge an admission. One can only imagine what the souvenir, food, and beverage prices will be. Fortunately for us, every minute of every game will be on television with kick-off times as early as noon and as late at 10:00 pm. There will be some long days for the most fanatical fans. I'm looking forward to sharing it all with my son.

Seattle Seahawks Win Super Bowl LX

Photos by Seattle Seahawks/ NFL

The Seattle Seahawks got revenge on the New England Patriots, (after the Patriots defeated them in Super Bowl XLIX, on February 1st, 2015) and defeated them, 29 - 13, to become Super Bowl LX Champions. Some of the Seahawks players with Michigan Connections are:AJ Barner (TE): Played for the University of Michigan, Olu Oluwatimi (C): Played for the University of Michigan, Mike Morris (DE): Played for the University of Michigan, Kenneth Walker III (RB): Played at Michigan State University. (and MVP of Super Bowl LX), Anthony Bradford (G): Attended/graduated from Muskegon High School, Zach Charbonnet (RB): Played for the University of Michigan, Cody White (WR - Practice Squad): Played at Michigan State University, Montorie Foster Jr. (WR - Practice Squad): Played at Michigan State University, and some of the Seahawks Coaches and Staff with Michigan Connections are: Mike Macdonald (Head Coach): Defensive coordinator at the University of Michigan in 2021, Jay Harbaugh (Special Teams Coordinator): Spent 9 seasons as an assistant at the University of Michigan, Chris Partridge (Linebackers Coach): Former Michigan linebackers coach, Justin Hinds (Defensive Line Coach): Former Central Michigan assistant coach, and Tyson Prince (Offensive Assistant): Michigan State graduate and former student assistant.

(L-R) QB Sam Darnold, RB and MVP of Super Bowl LX Kenneth Walker III, and head coach Mike Macdonald celebrating with the Super Bowl trophy after defeating the New England Patriots, 29 - 13

(L-R) RB and MVP of Super Bowl LX Kenneth Walker III, and head coach Mike Macdonald celebrating with the Super Bowl trophy after defeating the New England Patriots, 29 - 13

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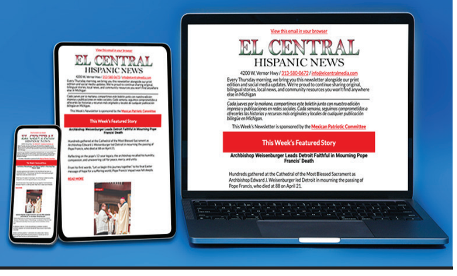

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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:

What you can do to stop big corporations from helping ICE

You are not powerless. You can stop their complicity in this humanitarian disaster.

By Robert Reich

Many of you tell me you feel powerless in the face of Trump's reign of terror. You view and read horrific news reports about what ICE and Border Patrol are doing, but you don't know how you can reduce or stop this horror.

Let me assure you: You're not powerless. In fact, you have enormous power.

Start with ICE and Border Patrol detention facilities, now holding some 70,000 people in 224 facilities across the country that reportedly are rife with abuses. Last year, deaths in ICE custody reached a 20-year high. The first days of 2026 brought more deaths. Medical neglect, isolation, and overcrowding are routine.

CoreCivic (formerly Corrections Corporation of America) is the largest owner and operator of ICE and Border Patrol detention centers. It has a record of abusing detainees. Among the detention centers CoreCivic lists on its website is the Stewart Detention Center in Lumpkin, Georgia. In December, The Intercept reported that there were at least 15 medical emergency calls to 911 from the Stewart facility every month since the start of the second Trump administration.

If you're as outraged about this as I am, here are five things you can do now.

1. You and I are paying CoreCivic through our tax dollars. You can demand that our senators and representatives in Congress not fund the Department of Homeland Security until these abuses stop.

At this moment, congressional Democrats are trying to condition their votes for the Department of Homeland Security's spending bill on placing guardrails around ICE and Border Patrol.

You might contact your senators and representatives and urge them not to vote for funding of the Department of Homeland Security. Or at the least, demand that in order to receive funding, their agents cannot wear masks, must wear identification, cannot use racial profiling, must have search warrants, cannot use lethal force, and must give arrestees due process, and that those detained must receive adequate medical care and accommodation.

You can reach your senators and representatives through the U.S. Capitol switchboard at (202) 224-3121.

2. You may own CoreCivic indirectly. You can withdraw your savings from institutional investors that are financing it.

CoreCivic is a public-held corporation, meaning that it's listed on the stock exchange. We may not own its shares directly, but many of us entrust our savings to institutional investors such as Black Rock and Vanguard, which own significant shares in CoreCivic.

Black Rock accounts for 16 percent of CoreCivic's total shares. Vanguard Group Inc. holds 12 percent. They are CoreCivic's largest shareholders. As such, they have the most influence (other than the federal government's Department of Homeland Security, if DHS were acting responsibly) over how CoreCivic runs its detention facilities.

Find out if your savings are held by one or both of these two giant institutional investors. (Check with your broker or look at the reports they send you.) If they are, you might instruct your broker to withdraw your savings from them and put them in another institution that doesn't hold shares of CoreCivic.

3. You may support the Democratic Party, specifically the Democratic Governors Association — which has been accepting donations from CoreCivic. You can contact the DGA and tell it to stop accepting such donations.

A Politico review of campaign finance records published Saturday shows that the Democratic Governors Association has taken in hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations from CoreCivic. These are not charitable contributions by CoreCivic, but attempts by CoreCivic to influence state legislation.

From 2017 through at least 2025, the DGA took in $1,246,050 over 46 donations from CoreCivic. The most recent publicly reported donation to the DGA came in May 2025, according to records, around the same time White House officials began pressuring ICE to ramp up arrests.

The Republican Governors Association has undoubtedly taken in as much if not more donations from CoreCivic, but I'm assuming that more of us are affiliated with, or at least more influential in, the Democratic Party than the Republican.

You can contact the Democratic Governors Association and tell them to stop taking donations from CoreCivic. You can reach them by writing to the Democratic Governors Association, 1300 Eye Street NW, Suite 1200 West, Washington, D.C. 20005. Or telephone them at (202) 772-5600.

4. You can also express your outrage directly to CoreCivic — and tell them you refuse to support them with your tax dollars or your investment savings. Write them directly at CoreCivic, 5501 Virginia Way, Suite 110, Brentwood, TN 37027. And phone them toll-free at 1-800-624-2931.

5. In addition to your power as a taxpayer, investor-saver, and voter, you're also powerful as a consumer. Although you don't purchase CoreCivic's detention services directly, you buy from corporations that every day enable CoreCivic, ICE, and Border Patrol to do their nefarious work.

For example, ICE's latest recruitment ads — built around music and language drawn straight from far-right neo-Nazi memes and aimed at extremists who are most fervent about guns, tactical gear, and vigilantism — are being distributed by and are profiting two companies you probably use all the time: YouTube and Google.

Meanwhile, AT&T, Home Depot, Amazon, and Microsoft are providing ICE and Border Patrol with cloud computing, surveillance software, and logistical support that's central to how they function. This corporate collaboration makes large-scale enforcement possible.

And Verizon — through a 10-year, $176 million contract with the Department of Homeland Security, including ICE — supplies the communications infrastructure that facilitates raids, detention centers, and deportations.

Without these corporate partners, ICE could not carry out violent raids, operate sprawling detention centers, or deport people at scale. These corporations are enabling violence on the streets and death behind barbed wire.

Yet these corporations also spend billions of dollars each year on their brand images and public relations in order to attract your consumer dollars. None wants to be seen as underwriting civilian killings like those of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. None wants its brand associated with record numbers of deaths in custody. None wants to be linked to detention sites with names like "Alligator Alcatraz" that are rife with abuse.

Your consumer dollars are critical to these corporations. So, at the least, you can demand that they stop profiting from their collaborations with ICE. (Click on the word "demand" in the previous sentence to send them a message.)

And tell Verizon to end its contracts with ICE and stop profiting from violence, detention, and abuse.

You can go a step further and boycott the giant corporations now helping ICE. Visit www.boycottcitizens.org/ice

In these and many other ways, you are powerful. As a consumer, saver-investor, taxpayer, and voter, you keep these corporations going.

Together, we're even more powerful. We need not tolerate their complicity in the inhumane acts now being done by ICE, Border Patrol, and Trump's Department of Homeland Security.

You are not powerless. You can take action now. Please do.

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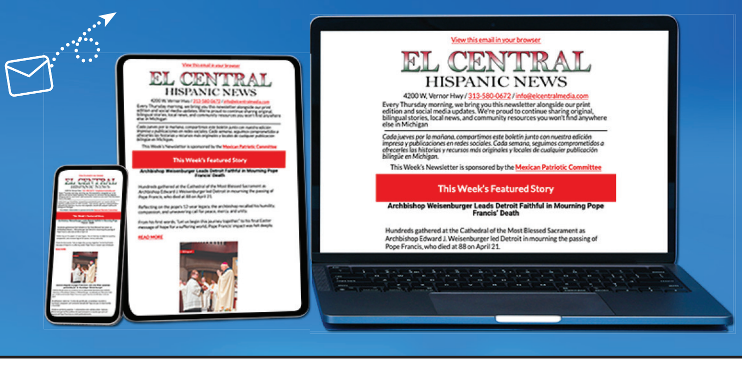

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SPECIAL WORLD'S CULTURES

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Ash Wednesday and Lent

Next Wednesday, February 18th, is Ash Wednesday for Catholics, following Shrove Tuesday. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent: the 40 days and 40 nights Jesus spent in the desert resisting temptation through fasting, prayer, and almsgiving.

Fasting and celibacy are suggested on Ash Wednesday. For those unable to fast completely, consuming light meals is recommended. On Ash Wednesday, when receiving ashes on the forehead, it is customary to say: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return," or "From dust you came, and to dust you shall return." This signifies the imprint of ashes on the forehead, emphasizing that we are not eternal beings like God. The ashes used are usually from the palms blessed the previous year on Palm Sunday. The Catholic Church reminds us that Lent is a period of renewal and hope, emphasizing love for the poor and charity.

In different regions of the Americas, it is commemorated in different ways according to the interpretation of their peoples and cultures, as is the case with the Mayo and Yaqui peoples of northern Mexico in Sonora. The Pharisees and the Pascolas, men covered in traditional masks, go through the streets performing dances with butterfly cocoons and deer dancers, which are part of their offering. For 40 days, they must sleep on the ground, remain celibate, and not work, living instead on alms.

In Andean villages, Lent is related to health and illness. Three prayers are held each week, led by the Aymara people who do speak Spanish. However, the celebration of the Virgin of the Assumption is more common for them, as it is when they ask the Virgin Mary for her blessing on agriculture. During Lent, people are asked to avoid eating red meat, especially on Fridays. This has led to the development of culinary traditions that don't include red meat as a main ingredient, giving prominence to fish dishes and emphasizing the consumption of vegetables.

In Brazil, dishes such as the following are common:

Moqueca de Peixe, a fish stew made with any white fish, shrimp, onion, garlic, red and green bell peppers, and seasoned with palm oil, coconut milk, ground chili pepper, and cilantro. It is one of the most popular dishes in Brazil.

Casquinha de Siri, made with crab meat marinated in lemon, is served in shells, accompanied by a sofrito of onion, bell pepper, and tomato seasoned with salt and pepper, garlic, and cilantro. It is then sprinkled with cassava flour and Parmesan cheese before baking.

Leão Veloso, a seafood soup prepared with shrimp, lobster, and fish. Besides tomato and saffron, which gives it an incredible flavor that everyone should try, especially during Lent.

Brazilian fricassee, most commonly eaten during Carnival, consists of a preparation with fried and beaten eggs, seasoned with lemon and parsley.

In Mexico, in the state of Querétaro, the gastronomic tradition of the seven cazuelas (seven pots) is practiced, in which soups and dishes are prepared with ingredients such as corn or huachales (corn kernels), lentils, chickpeas, fava beans, and potato pepian. Some recipes are:

Huachales: These are corn kernels dried in the sun; they can be cooked in soup, with nopales (prickly pear cactus pads), fried with onion, tomato, and spices such as saffron and cumin, or in dried shrimp fritters.

Lentils: These can be cooked Mexican-style, with nopales, in fritters, in broth, and even in soup and cream soup. Shrimp fritters: made with dried shrimp, guajillo chile, and nopales (prickly pear cactus pads), one of the star dishes during Holy Week.

Pipián with potatoes: a sauce made with toasted and ground pumpkin seeds, or with corn mixed with achiote, to which potatoes are added.

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ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,

by Mariana Ayón RV

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO

Miércoles de ceniza

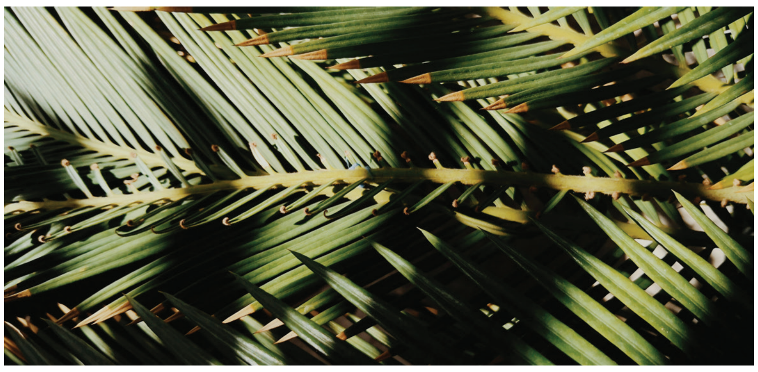
Miércoles de ceniza y la cuaresma

El próximo miércoles 18 de febrero para los católicos se celebra el Miércoles de Ceniza, mismo que es precedido por el martes de Carnaval. Con el miércoles de Ceniza se da inicio a la conmemoración de la Cuaresma: los 40 días y 40 noches que Jesús pasó en el desierto resistiendo las tentaciones a través de ayuno, oración y limosnas.

El Miércoles de Ceniza se sugiere el ayuno y celibato, para aquellos que no pueden llevar el ayuno completo, se sugiere llevar consumir alimentos ligeros.

En el miércoles de ceniza al recibir la ceniza en la frente se suele decir: polvo eres y en polvo te convertirás, o bien, del polvo vienes y en polvo te convertirás. De ésto que se ponga la marca de ceniza en la frente, haciendo hincapié en que no somos seres eternos como lo es Dios. La ceniza que se usa suele ser de las palmas bendecidas el año anterior en el Domingo de Ramos.

La iglesia católica recuerda que la cuaresma es un periodo de renovación y esperanza, poniendo énfasis en el amor a los pobres y la caridad.



En diferentes regiones del continente americano, se conmemora de diferentes maneras acorde a la interpretación de sus pueblos y culturas, como el caso de los mayos y yaquis del norte de México en Sonora, los Fariseos y las Pascolas, hombres cubiertos en máscaras tradicionales van por las calles haciendo danzas con capullos de mariposa y danzantes del venado que son parte de su ofrenda pues durante 40 días deben dormir en el suelo, mantenerse en celibato, no deben trabajar, por lo que vivirán de las limosnas.

En los pueblos andinos, la cuaresma se relaciona con la salud y la enfermedad, se llevan a cabo tres rezos por semana dirigido por los aymaras que sí saben español. Sin embargo, es más común para ellos la celebración de la Virgen de la Asunción, pues es cuando le piden a la mamita la bendición para la agricultura.

Durante la cuaresma se pide evitar consumir carnes rojas, especialmente los viernes, lo que ha llevado a desarrollar tradiciones culinarias que no incluyan las carnes rojas como ingrediente principal, dando espacio a platillos con pescado, así como acentuar el consumo de verduras.

En Brasil se acostumbran platillos como:

Moqueca de pescado, un guisado que se hace con cualquier pescado blanco, camarones, cebolla, ajo, pimiento rojo y verde y se sazona con aceite de palma, leche de coco, ají molido y cilantro. Es uno de los platillos más populares en Brasil.

Casquinha de siri, elaborado con carne de cangrejo marinada al limón, la casquinha se sirve en conchas, acompañado de sofrito de cebolla, pimiento y tomate salpimentado, con ajo y cilantro. Al final se le espolvorea harina de yuca y queso parmesano antes de hornearse.

Leão veloso, una sopa de mariscos que se prepara con camarones, langostas y pescado. Además de tomate y azafrán, lo cual le da un sabor increíble que cualquiera debe probar, especialmente durante la Cuaresma.

Fricasé brasileño, más consumido durante los carnavales que consiste en una preparación con huevos fritos y batidos, condimentados con limón y perejil.

En México, en el estado de Querétaro se lleva a cabo la tradición gastronómica de las siete cazuelas, en el que se elaboran sopas y platillos con ingredientes como el elote o huachales, las lentejas, los garbanzos, las habas, el pepián de papas. Algunas recetas son:

Huachales: Son las mazorcas secas al sol, se pueden cocinar en sopa, con nopales, fritos cebolla, el jitomate y especias como azafrán y cominos, en tortitas de camarón seco.

Lentejas: se pueden cocinar a la mexicana, con nopales, en tortitas, caldillo e incluso en sopa y crema.

Tortitas de camarón: elaboradas con camarón seco, chile guajillo y nopales, uno de los platillos estrellas en la Semana Santa.

Pipián con papas: salsa que se hace con pepitas de calabaza tostadas y molidas, o con maíz mezclado con achiote, al que se le agregan papas.

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